

State of Wisconsin \ DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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STATE OF WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE BEFORE THE ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

TESTIMONY PRESENTED IN THE MATTER OF ASSEMBLY BILL 733

Date: March 24, 2010

INTRODUCTION

Good morning Representative Black and members of the Committee. My name is Jeanne Cargill. I am the lead worker for the DNR's Safe Drinking Water Loan Program. Assembly Bill 733 (AB 733) would directly impact the Safe Drinking Water Loan Program. The Department of Natural Resources supports Assembly Bill 733 for several reasons.

AB 733 would change the Safe Drinking Water Loan Program application and plans and specifications deadline from April 30 to June 30. Municipalities use their rank on the project priority list, which we publish in mid- to late- March, to decide whether they want to put the time and money into pulling together an application and having an engineer prepare plans and specifications. Changing the application deadline to June 30 will provide municipalities with additional time to make more informed financial decisions regarding their drinking water infrastructure projects and to complete and submit a loan application.



Testimony Presented by the Department of Natural Resources in the Matter of Assembly Bill 733

AB 733 would also change the loan closing deadline to June 30. This new closing deadline will maintain the one-year window during which the DNR must complete all loan processing and better coincides with municipal spring bidding schedules.

Further, AB 733 would allow the DNR to accept safe drinking water loan applications even after the June 30th deadline if the Program were to receive fewer applications than available loan funding in a particular fiscal year. Allowing additional applications after the June 30th deadline would help ensure the DNR uses all of the available funding each year and provide flexibility for municipalities whose design and construction schedules don't fit in nicely with the Program's schedule.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this bill. I am available to answer any questions you might have.